

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PUBLIC  
COMMENT PERIOD FOR DEVELOPMENT OF WATER QUALITY STUDY**

**PUBLIC MEETINGS:** Public meetings will be held on Wednesday March 3, 2010 at 2pm and 6pm at the Appomattox Regional Library (in the HMA Room) located at 209 East Cawson Street in Hopewell, VA 23860.

**PURPOSE OF NOTICE:** The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Conservation and Recreation are announcing the draft report of a study to restore water quality for portions of Blackwater Swamp, Blackwater River, tributary to Coppahaunk Swamp, Warwick Swamp, Second Swamp, and Otterdam Swamp located within the City of Petersburg, Prince George, Dinwiddie, Surry, and Sussex Counties. This notice announces the draft report, final public meetings for the study, and a public comment opportunity. The draft report will be available on DEQ's website the day of the meetings at: <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/TMDLDataSearch/DraftReports.aspx>

**MEETING DESCRIPTION:** Final public meetings on a study to restore the recreational use areas of portions the Blackwater and its tributaries (mentioned above) which are impaired due to bacterial violations.

**DESCRIPTION OF STUDY:** Virginia agencies have been working to identify sources of bacterial contamination of portions of the Blackwater and its tributaries. These impairments span approximately 82 river miles. These waterways are impaired for failure to meet the recreational use due to exceedances of the bacterial water quality standard.

Waterbody	Location	Impaired Length (miles)	Impairment
Blackwater Swamp	Petersburg, Prince George, Surry, Sussex	22.53	<b>Recreational Use (Swimming)</b>
Blackwater River	Sussex, Surry	24.59	
Warwick Swamp	Dinnwidde, Prince George	12.89	
Second Swamp	Petersburg, Prince George	15.24	
Otterdam Swamp	Surry	5.57	
Tributary to Coppahaunk Swamp	Sussex	0.89	
Total Impairment Length		81.71	

The draft study reports on the current status of the waterbodies via sampling performed by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the possible sources of bacterial contamination. The study recommends total maximum daily loads, or TMDLs, for the impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, bacteria levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount.

**HOW TO COMMENT:** DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax, or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ during the comment period, which expires April 2, 2010.

**CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

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